discussing the Finance Bill now after one or two mentions of public importance by two Members. So far as special mentions are concerned, we will take them up in the evening.... (*Interruptions*).... Dr. Jain saheb, let me not waste the time of the House. Last week there was a complaint by some Members that they were not getting enough time to discuss financial matters and we were passing them in a hurry. So in view of the sentiments expressed by some Members, let us take up the Finance Bill first and special mentions in the evening. We have allotted three hours for the Finance Bill.

श्री सिकन्दर बख्त : एक मिनट । सदर साहिबा, आपका फैसला बिल्कुल दुरस्त है । लेकिन इसका ऐलान पहले से होना चाहिए था, क्योंकि अब हो सकता है कि बहुत सारे बोलने वाले मेम्बर इस अंदाज से आयें कि वह बात लंच के बाद आएगी। तो बहुत दिक्कत हो जाएगी :

†[شری سکندر بخت : ایک منٹ صدر صاحبہ — آپکا فیصلہ بالکل درست ہے — لیکن آپکا اعلان پہلے سے ہونا چاہئے تھا — کیونکہ اب ہوسکتا ہے کہ بہت سارے بولنے والے ممبر اس انداز سے آئیں کہ وہ بات لنچ کے بعد آئیگی — تو بہت دقت ہو جائیگی —]

उप सभापति : अगर वे न आयेंगे, तो बाद में दे देंगे, उन्हें, कोई बात नहीं है ।

SHRI BHUBANESHWAR KALITA (Assam) : Madam, what about other legislative.. (*interruptions*)..

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : Madam Deputy Chairman, what about my Bill ?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Your Bill will be passed without any discussion.

Mr. Kamal Morarka is having some problem. Mr. Ramdas Agarwal is also having some problem. Before taking up the Finance Bill, I will allow them first to speak.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI (Maharasntra) : Madam, I am having a very big problem.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : I know that your problem is pending before me.

Re-involvement of Custom Officials in Bombay Bomb Blasts

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA (Rajasthan) : Madam Deputy Chairman, I want to draw the attention of the House to a very, very serious matter. This matter of the Bombay bomb blasts has been engaging the attention of this House, time and again. In the reports that have appeared in the press, Customs officials are interlinked with the people who have brought in all the ammunition and explosives and responsible for the blasts. Madam, one Additional Collector of Customs has been arrested in Bombay. It is a very serious matter. Why I am bringing it to your notice is that there is an intelligence report. I cannot place it on the Table of the House because I know the Chair will not give me permission to do it. I am prepared to do it.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : You can give it to the Finance Minister.

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : There is a CBI report sent to the Government well in time which has said that one Chaddha, Kamal Kumar Chaddha, who is a known smuggler, who is in accomplice of Dawood Ibrahim, had come to India in January. The CBI has given the dates precisely. He came to Delhi on January 23 and stayed in Room No. 738 in the Oberoi Hotel till January 28. He gave his address, his London address, which is recorded in the hotel. He again came to Delhi on April 2 and stayed till April 5, again in the Oberoi Hotel in room No. 701. While in Delhi, he is known to have—this is the IB report—contacted one Mr. Somnath Thaper, Additional Collector, Marine and Preventive, DRI, Bombay, who has been arrested since then and one Mr. V. N. Doipude, Additional Col-

†[ ] Transliteration in Arabic Script.

lector, Rummaging & Intelligence, Bombay. He also established contact with Mr. K.K. Dwivedi, Chairman of the Central Board Excise and Customs, through his son Manish Dwivedi. This is the IB report. Why I am bringing it to the attention of the Government is, had the Customs done even its normal duty, we could have avoided all that has happened. The Home Minister, unfortunately, is not here. There is a raging controversy in the Press whether the CBI should investigate the Bombay blasts or the Maharashtra police should do it. I am not against the Maharashtra police doing it. That is a different matter. But, the moment Customs officials are involved, the CBI can *suo motu* start investigating. That is the job of the CBI. The job of the CBI is to see that Government officials are not corrupt or, wherever there is complicity, it is its job to investigate. I do not understand why they are waiting for the Maharashtra Government to permit them. The CBI should immediately interrogate Mr. K.K. Dwivedi. He had retired and he was given extension twice. The previous Minister for State, who is no more in that department, had recommended his extension. He was given extension twice for three months each though the Prime Minister did not want to extend his term. The term can be extended, as you know, for three months without going to the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet. He was given extension twice. It is openly known that his son is hobnobbing with these people. Madam, in our country, if revenue or customs officials or officials connected with the border get involved with smugglers, I am sorry, whatever we may do in this House, whatever we may talk, will not work. I do not know who is responsible for the Bombay blasts, whether the hand of Pakistan is there or not. That is another debate that goes on in the House. But the fact remains that if our own officials, whether they are police officials or customs officials, are in league with these people, I am sorry, even now we are sitting on a volcano because we do not know what is happening, we do not know what is landing. We are depending on the customs officials. I do not see any reason why the remaining officials should not be arrested immediately. Mr. Dwivedi was a senior man. The more senior you are, the more responsible you are supposed to be. The CBI should immediately interogate them. If necessary, arrest everybody. I want an assurance from the Government that none of these people will be spared, that the CBI will immediately swing into action and nobody will be spared, however high he may be. That is the only assurance I want.

एक माननीय सदस्य: एश्योरेंस तो पहले आने दीजिए ना।

उपसभापति: अब एश्योरेंस इमिजेट्ली कैसे आ जाए। पता लगायेंगे, मालूम करेंगे। ऐसे, कैसे एश्योरेंस आ जायेगा।

श्री कमल मोरारका: आप कह रही हैं कि पता लगायेंगे, मालूम करेंगे। . . . (व्यवधान)

The Finance Minister is here. He can assure me. I will be happy.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : I tell you, he is listening to it. He will find out. He cannot give an assurance.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA (Bihar) : He knows that Tapa has been arrested... (*Interruptions*).

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH (Bihar) : What else does he want ?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : May be, he wants to know more about it. May be, he is already doing it.

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Silence on such issues will be deafening. If Mrs. Margaret Alva reacts, I will be happy. At least she can assure me that the CBI will immediately look into the conduct of the Customs officials. I hope that is within the purview of the CBI. For that, you need not wait for the Maharashtra Government to permit. Madam, the matter

is being pushed under the carpet by saying that the Maharashtra Government is not allowing them. For inquiring into the conduct of Central Government officials, the Maharashtra Government's permission is not required. Averseeing the conduct of the Customs officials is a basic job of the CBI. At least you give us that assurance.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA) : Madam, I am sorry, I am just clarifying, I am not giving any assurance. The hon. Finance Minister is here. In matters concerning officials who come under different ministries, it is the administrative ministry which is responsible. It is they who have to refer the matter to the CBI. Any body may talk about some report. None of us has seen that report. He seems to have special information, Madam. Now that he has brought it before the House and the Finance Minister is here. I can assure him that we will look into whatever reports have been brought before the House, if they are available with the people... *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Andhra Pradesh) : How can you assure on behalf of the Finance Minister ?.. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Unless the Finance Minister refers it to the CBI .... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Why can't the Finance Minister be persuaded to do that ? .... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Mr. Narayanasamy, you have no *locus standi*. .. *(Interruptions)* Let the Minister speak. .. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH : Let the Finance Minister say something. .. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY (Pondicherry) : I am the last person to defend any corrupt person. When Mrs. Margaret Alva was speaking, he was interrupting. That is why I am interrupting him. .. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : What is he doing ? Is he opposing or supporting us ? .. *(Interruptions)*

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Just a minute, please. It is a very serious allegation being levelled against certain senior officials. The Finance Minister is here. Mrs. Margaret Alva explained the procedural problem. That is all about it. If such an allegation is levelled against certain officials, whether it is right or wrong, only an enquiry will tell. The Finance Minister is here. He has heard it and I am sure he is going to take action... *(Interruptions)* If he wants to say something, I have no objection. But this is a very serious matter and whether it is true or not, has to be cleared because we do not want our service people to have any spot on them. They have a very clear service record. If such allegations are being levelled, they should be cleared of them.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH) : Madam, I can assure the House that we are not there to protect any guilty or corrupt person. The hon. Member has mentioned a particular report of the IB. I am not personally familiar with that report. But now that he has brought this matter before the House, I will look into this matter and I can assure you and through you, the House, that whatever appropriate action is required, will be taken, taking into account the facts of the case.. *(Interruptions)*

DR. JINENDRA KUMAR JAIN (Madhya Pradesh) : Madam, I want to say something regarding this matter.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : That matter is over, Dr. Jain. What is your problem ?

DR. JINENDRA KUMAR JAIN : Madam, another dimension of this problem is the compulsion of the Congress Party.. (*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : I am not allowing this. Dr Jain, I am sorry. Don't politicise the situation. It is a very serious allegation. Please sit down...(*Interruptions*) I said, please sit down. ..(*Interruptions*) I am not permitting...(*Interruptions*). I say, please take your seat. Please listen to me first...(*Interruptions*) As I said before from the Chair, it is a very serious allegation levelled against our service people. We never heard such a thing before the bomb blast or whatever has happened during the last two months. Now if such an allegation is being levelled by a senior Member of this House and the Finance Minister has given a commitment, I think it is in the interest of our country that you do not talk about anything now. ..(*Interruptions*) I won't allow..(*Interruptions*) I am not allowing. It is question of our senior officers and whether they are corrupt or not, it is for the Government to find out. I am not allowing anybody to speak. Dr. Jain, realise the seriousness of the situation. There are other matters also. I am not permitting. I am telling you this is a serious matter. Please understand it. We do not want any of our innocent officers to be unnecessarily harassed; we do not want anybody who is found corrupt to be scot-free. Let this matter be handled by the Government. ..(*Interruptions*)

DR. JINENDRA KUMAR JAIN : This is more important.

RE-LOSS INCURRED BY GOVERNMENT DUE TO PROPOSED REDUCTION IN REVISED PRICES OF SHARES OF PUBLIC SECTOR UNDERTAKINGS

SHRI JAGESH DESAI (Maharashtra) : It is a question of loss incurred by the Government because of the proposed reduction in reserved prices of shares of the public sector undertakings. Rs. 3,400 crores have been lost and this has been brought out by the CAG Report. This unjustified reduction in the reserved prices has resulted in colassal loss to public sector undertakings. The administrative Ministries asked the Government not to disinvest their shares. I want that the Finance Minister should look into it and find out how this has happened, because we cannot allow this kind of losses to the Exchequer. I don't want CBI to look into it. I want that the Finance Minister himself should look into it so that in future this may not happen. This is the CAG Report....(*Interruptions*)....

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Andhra Pradesh) : Madam, I want to speak.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : On the same issue ?

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Yes. Madam, this is a scandal of the highest magnitude. The way the shares were disinvested by the PSUs has been commented upon in many quarters. But now that an organisation like the C&AG has brought out a substantive report, it is incumbent upon the Government to respond to this in a specific way and enlighten the House with details of the transaction.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : If he wants, he can answer....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA (West Bengal) : Madam, just one minute.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Now we cannot have a discussion on an issue. We have got the Finance Bill. You can talk about it.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA : Madam, I am saying this is a very big scandal involving the credibility of the Ministry of Finance. It is being said that the shares have been disinvested which has brought a loss and that it was within the knowledge of the officials of the Finance Ministry. And, therefore, Madam, since the credibility of the Ministry is affected, the Minister must come out and tell us